Reported failure of India's Nuclear Plan

1266. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item that appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 15th February, 1994 under the caption "India's nuclear plan a dangerous failure";

(b) if so, whether Government have examined this report;

(c) whether it is a fact that a 60 minute popular CBS programme presented a report on India's nuclear programme;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the programme showed that the failure of the nuclear plan has been hidden from people and the nuclear energy programme was used to develop country's weapon capability;

(e) if so, whether India strongly protested to this; and

(f) the steps taken by Governments in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Our Embassy in Washington has already taken up the matter with the producer of the CBS Programme. The Government also issued a press release and made statement strongly protesting against the baseless allegations made in the CBS programme. India's nuclear programme is neither dangerous nor is it a failure. It conforms to the highest safety standards anywhere in the world and is a positive success.

Setting up of Atomic Power Plant in Punjab

1267. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given clearance for the setting up of a Atomic Power Plant in Punjab:

(b) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is per unit cost of electricity generation through atomic plant as compared to hydel and thermal means?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to establish an atomic power plant in Punjab during the VIII Plan. There is a request from the Punjab Govt. to establish an atomic power plant in the State. Setting up of new power plants would depend on the availability of resources and the suitability of new sites from all aspects.

(c) Tariffs for generation of electricity from different atomic power stations in the country are as under :-

	Tariff (paise/Kwh)
1. Tarapur Atomic Power Station	66.31
2. Rajasthan Atomic Power Station	64.41
3. Madras Atomic Power Station	77.53
4. Narora Atomic Power Station	144.03
5. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station	214.67

Hydel generation will always be cheaper when compared with atomic or coal based thermal power generation as there is no fuel cost involved in hydel generation. The unit cost of energy generated from a coal fired thermal power plant close to the coal pits will generally be lower than the cost of electricity from a Nuclear Power Plant. However, on account of lower fuelling costs, cost of generation from the Nuclear Power Stations would be competitive with that from coal based thermal power plants of comparable size and vintage located at about 1000 Kms. from the coal pitheads.

Kaiga Atomic Power Station

1268. SHRI E. BALANANDAN :
SHRI M. A. BABY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kaiga Atomic Power Station is proving to be a problem project now; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Kaiga Atomic Power Project consisting of 2 units of 220 MWe each has reached an advanced stage of civil construction and equipment erection is in progress. The first unit of this project is scheduled to achieve criticality by June 1996 and the second unit is expected to achive criticality by December 1996.